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10/026,061	12/18/2001	Ira Cohen	10006656	8586

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EXAMINER

BARQADLE, YASIN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 08/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2153

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.1 14, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1 . 17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1. 1 14, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1. 17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office Action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1. 1 14. Applicant's submission filed on May 12, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on May 12, 2006 has been fully considered but are not persuasive.

- Claim 1-11 have been cancelled
- New claims 11-29 have been currently.
- Claims 11-29 are pending.
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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered. The examiner has attempted to answer (respond) to the remarks (arguments) in the body of the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 11-16, 18-26 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thiesson et al US. Patent No. (6807537).

Art Unit: 2153

As per claim 11, Thiesson et al teach a method for adapting a Bayesian network that models an environment (abstract), comprising:

obtaining a set of present observation data from the environment (col. 29, lines 36-55, the decision graphs are adjusted to better reflect the data);

updating a set of parameters of the Bayesian network in response to the present observation data using a learning rate that indicates a relative weight of the present observation data and a set of past observation data pertaining to the environment (col. 29, lines 36-55 and col. 32, lines 43-67, the Bayesian network is scored for how well the decision graphs reflect data, this is in part responsive to a learning rate indicating a relative weight of the previous as well as the current data sets).

As per claim 12, Thiesson et al teaches the method of claim 11, wherein updating comprises updating the parameters using a different learning rate for each parameter of the Bayesian network (col. 8, lines 5-36.)

As per claim 13, Thiesson et al teaches the method of claim 11, further comprising determining the learning rate by determining

Art Unit: 2153

an initial value for the learning rate (col. 21, lines 27-65 and col. 29, line 36 - col. 30 line 21) and determining an estimate of the parameters in response to the present observation data (col. 21, lines 27-65 and col. 29, line 36 - col. 30 line 21) and increasing the learning rate if an error between the estimate and a mean value of the parameters is relatively large (col. 15, line 55 - col. 16, line 67 and col. 20, line 66 - col. 21, line 55.)

As per claim 14, Thiesson et al teaches the method of claim 11, further comprising determining the learning rate by determining an initial value for the learning rate (col. 29, lines 36-55) and determining an estimate of the parameters in response to the present observation data (col. 21, lines 27-65, col. 29, line 29 - col. 30 line 21 and col. 32, lines 48-67) and decreasing the learning rate when convergence is reached between the estimate and a mean value of the parameters (col. 15, line 55 - col. 16, line 67 and col. 20, line 66 - col. 21 line 55.)

As per claim 15, Thiesson et al teaches the method of claim 11, wherein a subset of values in the present observation data is unavailable when updating (col. 9, lines 8-23.)

Art Unit: 2153

As per claim 16, Thiesson et al teaches the method of claim 11, wherein the environment is an online environment (refer to Fig. 28, col. 21, lines 27-65 and col. 29, line 36 - col. 30, line 29.)

As per claim 18, Thiesson et al teaches the method of claim 16, wherein the online environment is an e-commerce System (col. 31, lines 7-47.)

As per claim 19, Thiesson et al teaches the method of claim 16, wherein the online environment is a database system (col. 4, lines 8-23).

As per claim 20, Thiesson et al teaches the method of claim 11, wherein updating comprises determining an initial set of the parameters and then updating the parameters in response to the present observation data using the learning rate (col. 12, lines 14-61 and col. 24, lines 36-67).

Claims 21-26 and 28-29 do not present further limitations above claims 11-16, and 18-20 above, therefore, they are rejected for similar reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 17 and 27, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thiesson et al US. Patent No. (6807537) and in view of Horvitz U.S. Patent No. (6182133).

As per claim 17 and 27 Thiesson et al teaches the invention as discussed above. Thiesson et al does not explicitly teach wherein the online environment is an email system.

Horvitz teaches initiating multiple tasks to pre-fetch variables by including sending and receiving e-mail messages (col. 36, lines 14-28)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to combine the teaching of Horvitz into the system of Thiesson et al in order to increase expandability. Horvitz provides fort a collection of

Art Unit: 2153

data sets from multiple sources to continually compute variables. Allowing the system to use disparate sources would increase system operability and greatly facilitate system expansion.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Bargadle whose telephone number is 571-272-3947. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

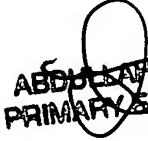
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PAIR system.

Art Unit: 2153

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YB

Art Unit 2153


ABDULHADI SALAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER